

By email only

Date: 23rd June 2024

FAO Steve Fraser-Lim

Application Reference: 3/24/0966/OUT

Site: Land North Of A507, West Of A10, Buntingford

Proposal: Outline planning application for development of up to 600 dwellings (C3), elderly accommodation (C3), Mixed Use Local Centre (including flexible use E, F and Sui Generis), First School, informal and formal open space, associated works and infrastructure including a new access from the A507 and pedestrian bridge over the A10, with all matters reserved except access.

Sport England Reference: PA/24/E/ER/67822

Thank you for consulting Sport England on the amended plans/information relating to the above application. The 'Indicative Sport Pitch Location' plan (Drawing Ref: HLM 082/035) and the Design and Access Statement Addendum respond to some of the comments made in our initial formal response dated 14th June 2024. This response should be treated as **supplementing our initial formal response**. I would wish to make the following comments on the amendments:

Community Sports Facility Provision

Outdoor Sports Provision

The Indicative Sport Pitch Location plan shows illustratively that the proposed playing field in 'Buntingford Park' could support a cricket pitch and an adult football pitch together with a MUGA. The plan is broadly welcomed and responds positively to advice in our initial response as it shows that a range of playing pitches could potentially marked out on the space identified for playing fields. However, I would make the following comments:

As the Indicative Sport Pitch Location plan has been submitted as JPG image rather than a PDF document it has not been possible to measure off it to check that the space available would be sufficient to provide suitably sized cricket and football pitches in practice. A plan to scale on a PDF is therefore requested to allow informed comments to be made.

A typical 9 pitch cricket ground meeting ECB guidance has overall dimensions of approximately 119 x 119 metres (allowing for the size of the cricket square, outfield area and minimum run-off beyond the outfield) which equates to around 1.42 hectares rather than the 1.2 hectares referred to on the plan. It is requested that the plans that have been submitted are reviewed to ensure that a cricket ground which meets this guidance can be accommodated in practice.

It is requested that as well as an adult football pitch, provision is also made for

a youth football pitch as the District Council's emerging playing pitch strategy has identified local deficiencies in the Buntingford area especially in relation to youth 9v9 football pitches (73 x 46 metres).

Clarity should be provided of whether the MUGA would be an informal MUGA designed and intended for casual use mainly by children/young people or a formal sports MUGA with courts designed for club/group use on a bookable basis

As set out in our initial response, a minimum specification for the playing fields and the supporting pavilion/parking will need to be prepared for inclusion in a planning obligation.

I hope that this supplementary response is helpful. Our position on all other matters would remain as set out in our initial response dated 14th June 2024. I would be happy to discuss the response with the local planning authority and/or the applicant as the determination of the application progresses. Please contact me if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely,

Roy Warren
Planning Manager

